

San Diego Historical Society
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

OUR NAME GEORGE G. CRAWFORD
(If married woman, include both maiden and married names)

ADDRESS PO Box 1695 San Diego CA 92164

BIRTHPLACE San Diego CA BIRTHDATE 8-9-20

If not a native Californian, the year you arrived in California _____

Year you first became a resident of San Diego County 1920

San Diego County communities in which you have lived and the approximate number of years spent in each community _____

San Diego

Father's name George H. Crawford Birthplace San Diego

Mother's maiden name Anna Goeddel Birthplace San Diego

Brothers and sisters (birthdates, if known) _____

Helen (1/2 sister) 5-6-1928

Schooling Edison Grammar; Wilson Jr High; San Diego State;
Balboa Law School

Married to (wife's maiden name) Esther Louise Fitzenmeyer

Date of marriage 1-31-43 Place of marriage San Diego CA

Your children -- list names, birthplaces and birthdates:

Toni Diane San Diego CA 1-5-48

Cheryl Anne San Diego CA 5-3-51

Facts about yourself and your family you would like to include in the biographical files of the San Diego Historical Society:

I am 3rd generation to live in San Diego. Relatives have served
as leaders for San Diego in many capacities - Genetic?

(Use back of this sheet for additional information)

Date of this report 4-18-97 Your signature George G. Crawford

Crawford Named Municipal Judge

TRIBUNE

FEB 5 1960

Assemblyman Gets Post Left Vacant As Abernethy Is Named To Superior Court

By ARTHUR RIBBEL

Chief, The San Diego Union's Sacramento Bureau
Copy Press Service

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 4—Gov. Brown today elevated Municipal Judge Ronald Abernethy to the San Diego Superior Court and appointed Assemblyman George Crawford (R-San Diego) to the Municipal Court bench to fill the vacancy.

Abernethy Succeeds Judge

Joe L. Shell, who retired from the superior court bench Jan. 6. The governor did not say whether he would call a special election to fill Crawford's assembly seat.

Abernethy, 59, a Democrat, was appointed to the Municipal Court in 1949 by Gov. Earl Warren. Crawford was elected to the assembly in 1956 after 10 years as an attorney in San Diego.

LEADER IN VOTE

Elected twice without opposition, Abernethy is in the second year of a six-year term as judge. Crawford, as his successor, will not have to run for reelection until 1965.

Abernethy led in a recent San Diego County Bar Association plebiscite, advisory but not binding on a governor.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Abernethy served five years as deputy district attorney in San Diego County and three as assistant U.S. Attorney. A law graduate of Southwestern University, he was in private practice from 1931 to 1941.

BACKS DEMOCRATS

During the 1959 session of the Legislature, Crawford voted consistently with the Democratic majority in the Assembly. Yesterday he voted with 53 other assemblymen for the one-million-dollar emergency fund for the Squaw Valley Winter Olympics. The fund has been requested by the governor.

Abernethy and his wife, Neva, live at 614 San Geronimo St., Point Loma. Their only child, Sandra, 21, is a senior at the University of Colorado.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Abernethy received his early schooling in Toronto, Canada.

(Continued on a-3, Col. 4)

(Continued from Page a-1)

He was naturalized in Los Angeles in 1926.

As a deputy district attorney Abernethy prosecuted Lloyd Sampson, known as the "yacht bandit" from a San Francisco case, for robbery and murder in the hold-up of the Seaboard Finance Co. Sampson was convicted and executed in the gas chamber.

Abernethy is a member of the Conference of California Judges, the San Diego Rotary Club, the Presbyterian Church.

Abernethy is a past president of the San Diego Heart Association, past chairman of the San Diego Salvation Army Advisory Board, a former president of the Frances W. Parker School board of trustees, past president of the Fathers' Club of The Bishop's School, past treasurer of the San Diego Philharmonic Society and served two terms as presiding judge of the Municipal Court.

Presiding Judge Bonsall Noon said no date has been set for swearing Abernethy as a Superior Court judge.

Crawford, 39, a Republican, was a bombardier with a 15th Air Force group in World War II. He was shot down over Germany on his ninth mission. Parachuting to safety, he was one of four survivors of the 11-man crew.

He was held prisoner for 14 months before being liberated by advancing Allied Forces.

A fourth generation San Diegan, Crawford attended schools at San Diego, including San Diego State. After the war, he obtained his law degree from Balboa University Law School. He worked as a deputy Municipal Court marshal to earn money to get through the law school.

He married Esther Fitzmeyer in 1948. They live with their two daughters, Toni Diane and Cheryl Anne, at 6491 Montezuma Rd., San Diego.

2 Candidates Ask More GOP Funds

Schrade, Crawford Voice Plea for Greater Effort

Two Republican incumbents called on the GOP Central Committee last night for more money and more work in their campaign for re-election.

Assemblymen Jack Schrade (R-El Cajon) and George Crawford (R-San Diego) both said the funds allocated to them by the Central Committee were insufficient. Each said that not enough precinct work had been carried on in his district.

Schrade told the group he was presenting his criticisms because the fight for the election in his district would be "a lot tougher than most think, and I want to see Republicans sent back to the Assembly."

Minutes read at the meeting showed that each Republican Assembly incumbent had been allocated \$1,800 from the Central Committee fund. William K. Shearer, the only Republican candidate for the Assembly who is not an incumbent, received \$3,500. Rep. Bob Wilson (R-San Diego) got \$6,200; Rep. James Utt (R-Santa Ana), \$1,800, and State Sen. Fred Kraft (R-San Diego), \$2,000.

Crawford told the group that their allocations to candidates totaled only 27 per cent of the committee's disbursements. He said that a minimum budget for his campaign amounted to \$4,400, and that he would have to raise more than half himself.

Receipts Report Noted

He referred in his talk to a mimeographed report of receipts and disbursements handed to committee members during the meeting.

The report showed the committee received \$55,256.22 during the last year. It spent \$50,884.47. Of this amount, \$18,900 went to candidates, \$5,565 to the Republican State Central Committee, and \$2,074.04 to the Republican National Committee.

The balance was divided

among various overhead costs.

"I thought things would be different when the Central Committee took over financing Republican candidates a year ago," Crawford said.

Work Called 'Horrible'

Schrade said that precinct work done by the committee while he was at Sacramento was "horrible." He said that not enough residents had been registered and area workers had not been properly organized.

He said that Democrats in his district are active and appear to be well financed.

Assemblyman Frank Luckel (R-San Diego) told the committee that delays in the Legislature on water and the budget have been harmful to the Republican Party. He said he had a "serious situation ahead of me."

Vote Plurality Seen

Shearer, in reporting to the committee on his district, said he expects Republicans will cast a plurality of votes in the June 3 primary election.

He said that his opponent, Assemblyman Sheridan Hegland (D-La Mesa), has "worked both sides of the street and the voters are finding him out."

He said labor refused to endorse Hegland for this election because Hegland took a labor endorsement and labor money in the last campaign and then "double crossed them by voting wrong on labor issues."

'Both Sides Played'

Shearer said he is for voluntary unionism and has taken the stand openly. Hegland "has played both sides," he said.

The committee voted to send a letter to contributors outlining their expenditures for the last year. The letter was to state that a full treasurer's report could be obtained from Republican headquarters.

\$50 Dinner
Open Drive
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or-

CRAWFORD, GEORGE

FROM : SAN DIEGO EVENING TRIBUNE, FEB. 6, 1960

SEE : BIOGRAPHICAL FILES ON : JUDGE RONALD ABERNETHY

Abernethy, Crawford Get Superior, Municipal Posts

Assemblyman George Crawford (R-San Diego) yesterday was appointed by Gov. Brown to be a Municipal Court judge here.

He will fill a vacancy on the Municipal Court bench left by the governor's appointment yesterday of Municipal Judge Ronald Abernethy to the Superior Court here.

Abernethy, a Democrat, succeeds Superior Judge Joe L. Shell, who retired Jan. 6.

There was no indication whether the governor would call a special election to fill the vacancy left in the Assembly by Crawford's appointment.

All Assembly seats will be up for election at the regular primary and general elections this year.

Crawford's appointment makes the line-up in the Assembly 46-32 Democratic. He represents the 79th District.

The appointment of Crawford, a Republican, by a Democratic governor follows Crawford's voting record in the Assembly of consistent support for most of Brown's

program during the Legislative session last year.

Other legislators said his vote Tuesday in the Assembly in favor of the governor's request for a million dollars for

an emergency fund for the Squaw Valley Winter Olympics decided the issue. Brown's request got the necessary two-thirds majority by a one-vote margin.



GEORGE CRAWFORD
He fills vacancy



RONALD ABERNETHY
Higher court choice

CRAWFORD, GEORGE
NF 11-12-12

CRAWFORD, GEORGE G.
August 9, 1920 to October 31, 2012



Judge George Crawford was a native San Diegan. He served as an Army Air Force officer in WWII. His plane was shot down over Austria and he was a POW for 15 months. He later authored the book "When Surrender Was Not an Option" about his POW experience.

He served as a Deputy City Prosecutor and then entered in a private law practice. He served two terms as a State Assembly-

man, and retired as a Municipal Court Judge after serving on the bench for 17 years.

Judge Crawford served as President of the American Judges Assoc., the San Diego Mental Health Assoc. and the Old Mission Rotary Club. He was a member of College Park Presbyterian Church and the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

He is survived by his wife Esther, two daughters, Toni and Cheryl, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Military graveside services will be held at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery assisted by Balboa Cremation Services.

Please sign the guest book at obituaries.utsandiego.com

7-3-56 (Tribune)



FLYING CANDIDATE—George Crawford, Republican nominee in 79th Assembly District, has completed a tour of active duty at Norton Air Force

Base, San Bernardino. He is shown in a jet training plane. Crawford today started reorganizing his campaign for the Nov. 5 general election.



WINNING CANDIDATE George G. Crawford and Mrs. Crawford are cheered by voting results coming off calculator at office of registrar of voters Tuesday night. He won Republican nomination in 79th Assembly District.

Crawford Given Nod for Assembly

George G. Crawford, who won the Republican nomination to the State Assembly from the 79th District Tuesday, today looked ahead to the general election in November.

"I couldn't have won the nomination without the wonderful help given me by my friends," he said. "I am confident that the same kind of help, given by the same kind of people, will send me to the Assembly this fall."

Crawford, an attorney and native San Diegan, faces Mrs. Wanda Sankary, the Democratic incumbent, in the general election.

He defeated Mrs. Kathryn Niehouse who represented the district in the Assembly 12 years as a Republican, in the primary election.

Crawford, 36, attended Hoover High School and San Diego State College. During World War II as an Air Force lieutenant he was shot down over Germany and spent 14 months in a prison camp.

Teachers Ask Board Policy

San Diego Teachers' Association last night requested the Board of Education to "adopt a means of providing the school district with funds necessary to continue our fine educational program."

In a statement to the board the association asked "adoption of a positive statement by the Board of Education regarding a professional salary level based on the worth of a teacher in our society."

The board took the requests under advisement.